

The Environmental Methods Forum (EMF)

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White Paper on Cross-Agency Environmental Measurement

- Presented to STPC at the June 2018 meeting
- Refocus work to address a limited set of high priority Agency needs due to resource constraints
- Recommended a focused standing group to address critical Agency needs in the area of non-regulatory laboratory and field methods (priorities, development, validation, communication/coordination)

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EMF Charter Status

- Final draft charter (based on the White Paper) for a focused standing group called the Environmental Methods Forum (EMF) sent to the STPC for concurrence
 - Incorporates feedback received from the STPC on the draft charter
 - Concurrence due **Friday, March 29**



Charter Overview

- Purpose and Scope
- Membership
- Organization
- Operations
 - Meetings
 - Annual Action Plan
 - Workgroups
 - Communities of Practice
 - Product Outreach

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Purpose and Scope

- Address consistency and quality in processes for:
 - Prioritizing, developing and validating laboratory methods for non-regulatory purposes
 - Adoption of methods developed by external parties for non-regulatory purposes
 - Field sampling and field methods standardization and quality
 - Effective internal (cross-agency) and external communication and coordination



Membership

- Consists of a Chair (or Co-Chairs) and 10 -12 members from across the Agency
 - Regions, OAR, OCSPP, OECA, OLEM, ORD, OW
- Members are managers:
 - Background in or responsibility for laboratory and/or field measurement operations
 - Able to identify support for Forum activities (e.g., personnel for workgroups)
 - Will serve 2 to 3 year terms (staggered)



EMF Products and Recommendations

- EMF products and recommendations will be presented to the STPC
- STPC will then advise the Science Advisor on whether the products and recommendations should be adopted by the Agency



Progress To Date

- Contract Support for EMF in place (from OSA)
- EMF Face to Face Meeting held last week March 20-21
- CY 2019 Draft Action Plan
 - 2 projects approved at Face to Face Meeting
 - 1 project - Tentative

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EMF CY 2019 Projects

- Develop Non-Regulatory Method Validation Guidance
- Stand up Community of Practice for Current Method Development Efforts
- Tentative: Develop Guidance on developing methods for Contaminants of Emerging Concern

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Next Steps

- EMF Approval of CY 2019 Action Plan
- Develop charges for approved projects from the Action Plan
- Request STPC approval of charges by May 2019



Questions?

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Background: EMF Operations

- Meet quarterly
- Annual Action Plan development
- Workgroups with specific charges to address topics/develop products outlined in the Action Plan
- Communities of Practice may be established for information sharing/discussion of activities
- Product Communication and Training

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